

**Substance Abuse Services Commission
Meeting of July 8, 2015
DHHS Building, 41 Anthony Avenue, Augusta, Maine
Conference Room C**

ATTENDANCE

Members Present:

Peter McCorison, Provider, Aroostook County, Chair for SASC
Ann Dorney, MD, Physician in Private Practice (phone)
Irene Laney, Clinician in Private Practice
Bill Lowenstein, Board of Dir. of Sexual Assault & Response Services
Scott Gagnon, Prevention, Healthy Androscoggin
Darren Ripley, MAAR

Members Absent/Excused:

Robert Rogers, Kennebec Behavioral Health
Rep. Adam Goode
Rep. Richard Malaby
Ann Giggey, Hope House
Diehl Snyder, MD
Thomas Leonard, School Administrative Leader

Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services:

Geoff Miller, Associate Director, Prevention & Intervention, SAMHS
Matthew Wells, Recovery Manager, SAMHS

Guests:

Neill Miner, Director, AdCare Maine
Deborah Doiron, Recorder, AdCare Maine

**Substance Abuse Services Commission Meeting
July 8, 2015
DHHS Building, 41 Anthony Avenue, Augusta, Maine
Conference Room C**

JUNE MINUTES

DRAFT Date:	July 13, 2015	SASC Approved:	
Signed: Recorded by: Deborah Doiron & Neill Miner AdCare Maine			

Meeting Convened: 9:00 A.M.

Adjourned: 12:00 AM

Meeting Convened: By Peter McCorison

Agenda:

- Introductions and Public Comments, Review of the June Minutes

New Business:

- Matthew Wells, Recovery Manager, SAMHS Recovery
- SAMHS Update, Geoff Miller, Associate Director

BREAK 10 Min.

- MATS Needs
- Raya Kouletsis, Coordinator, MAPSA – Reporting on Legislative Bills
- Irene Laney, Provider – AA International Convention
- Scott Gagnon, Prevention, Healthy Androscoggin – Upcoming Planned Events

Old Business:

- Update on Commission Membership List
- Prepare Agenda Items for meeting on August 12, 2015

Meeting Adjourned: 11:00

JULY 2015 SASC Meeting Summary

Peter McCorison, Chairperson

Introductions, Public Comment, and Meeting Minutes Review

Peter McCorison welcomed and thanked members and guests for coming to the meeting. Introductions were given. Peter asked if there were any public comments from the community. There were no public comments. Geoff Miller asked Peter McCorison if the agenda could be changed, so Matt Wells could speak first on Recovery. The scheduled agenda was adjusted.

Review of June SASC Minutes: The review and approval of the June minutes was moved forward to the next scheduled meeting on September 9, 2015. **There was a motion made by Bill Lowenstein that there be no SASC meeting scheduled for the month of August. Peter asked for a second and Irene Laney seconded this motion. It was approved that members would not meet again until September 9th.**

Conclusions or Actions and Responsible Lead Person; timeline if applicable:

Deborah Doiron will make some minor corrections to the June minutes before the next review of June minutes in September.

NEW BUSINESS – July Agenda

- **SAMHS Recovery:** Matthew Wells, the newly hired Recovery Manager spoke to the Commission members. Matt stated that it was good to see that he recognizes some of the faces on the Commission. He stated that his background does come from a mental health perspective. He has been looking at what recovery nationally looks like. He will be looking to Darren and the Commission to assist him with feedback on SAMHS initiatives in recovery. Matt also talked about resource challenges and differences in philosophies. He stated that he is on a learning curve. He feels that the different parts of the system need to work together to get to and keep best practices in use. In his experience, recovery is about connections; he stated that some systems have done very poorly in this area. He wants to build connections and have processes in place, ready and available for the person in recovery to use. Matt stated that he is willing to come back and present some of the projects he is currently working on and get feedback from the Commission members. He stated this is where he is right now. Matt asked the members if there were any questions.

Bill Lowenstein responded by stating that there really hasn't been a forum or an opportunity for collective voices to be heard, with the exception of Darren and MAAR being funded. There have been past attempts at conversations with the recovery community and SAMHS that were listened to, but not followed-up on. Bill felt there had been a lot of lost opportunities and that now is an opportunity to start anew -- something he is looking forward to.

Matt offered an experience he had early in his career in California, where there was a statewide initiative regarding recovery. It was a grassroots movement, but it also included

many other groups and organizations. These big systems moved very slowly in making changes, because of political and social dynamics. Matt also talked about the young people he met from the Portland Recovery Center and their enthusiasm and their specific approach to recovery efforts. Matt sees the different resources we have and suggests using what is already naturally in place. There are different groups that are very invested in recovery. The outcome should always be a pathway to recovery. He stated we should take into consideration all of the avenues, but also be sensitive to other people's ideas of how to accomplish these goals for recovery.

Bill also mentioned creating safety for people in recovery, eliminating stigma and integrating services. Geoff stated that there are multiple things we can do. Recovery is an individual process. People come into recovery from a variety of ways and how they choose to express this is a very personal and sometimes risky process. Geoff spoke to the value of sharing experiences, especially within the educational part of recovery, to help overcome the stigma. Geoff suggested that we do need to enhance the recovery oriented system of care. He stated that we all need to bring something to the table and also make sure people in recovery are included in our community coalitions. There is not one specific solution. Bill stated that he would like to see a healthy conversation about recovery.

Peter McCorison stated that the Commission has brought forth the idea of creating a credible document representing Recovery Capital. The State of Maine can use this information to present evidence of the impact recovery can have on the many costs of alcohol and drug addictions in the State of Maine. Peter also mentioned SAMHS' webpage and the issues people are having with it. The Commission would like to see some additions to the recovery sections of SAMHS's website. Peter stated that there needs to be more opportunities for training of recovery coaches and more access to phone line services to provide information and referrals.

Darren Ripley stated that he has been initiating new ways to collect information on recovery for two years by using a form he had developed with assistance from William White. Darren talked about the need for more support from providers to gather more information utilizing this format. He suggested possibly incorporating language in contracts with service providers, requiring programs to follow-up with individuals after they have left treatment. He would like to see more investments in Telephone Referrals Support, Recovery Coaches and more people advocating for the hiring of people coming out of the prison systems into the community with the need for employment.

Geoff mentioned that there are some resources through the Dept. of Labor that can assist with a listing of businesses willing to hire people coming out of treatment. Geoff also mentioned Paul Coleman, ICM supervisor in the Portland area who could be a good contact person in this area. Irene Laney mentioned that Joanna Russell in Bangor would be of assistance in this area also.

Bill stated there is a need for a philosophical shift. He stated that we have places and pockets of recovery going on without money or guidance being given by any higher government entity and there are tremendous lessons to be learned from this.

Matt added there are also some people who reached their goal of recovery through their communities, friends and family. Matt stated that the Recovery Capital idea and the scale is a great idea and he is very interested to see what the costs of substance use is in the State of Maine. Peter stated that having a common language and a way to present the information to policy makers is very important, if we want to be able to validate the impact that recovery has on community health and safety.

Conclusions or Actions and Responsible Lead Person; timeline if applicable:

Matt Wells stated that he would be glad to come back to the Commission at a later date with projects he has in the works and gladly hear some feedback from the members. No date has been planned as yet.

- **Update, Geoff Miller, Associate Director:**

- 1) **Contracting** – there are segments of line items being pulled from the contracts as they go through the approval process. Geoff has been informing the process, as the contracts move forward based on what is included in the budget. Application for this year's Block Grants is fairly stable. SAMHS is trying to stay with its principles of evidence-based services, effective, efficient service delivery, and process improvement;
- 2) **Budget** – Fund for Healthy Maine funding for prevention services remains intact. An RFP related to this will be coming out. There is new language in the RFP's regarding disqualification of submitting an application and ability to bid. Geoff briefly described the process to Irene Laney. Geoff stated that when people want more information about an RFP, all questions are collected both at the bidder's meeting and in any formal written questions mailed into SAMHS. Bidders then wait until the date listed on the RFP proposal package when the questions are answered and sent out to all bidders. Questions and answers are also posted on the State of Maine RFP website.
- 3) **New hires:** Joan Smyrski has been hired as the Associate Director of Treatment and Recovery, with this date being the first day of her new position. It was reported that she was at a meeting at the DHHS, 221 State Street location. Joan comes to this position from Licensing and Regulatory Services within DHHS, where she served as an Associate Director. She also previously worked for OCFS and the Office of Mental Health Services. Kristen Fortier, who had been in Acting Capacity as the Associate Director of Treatment and Recovery, has gone back to her old position in Region I.
- 4) **Contracts** – Staff are working to get them out to the providers, on a case by case process.
- 5) **MAT Services** – Geoff has been in conversation with Tracy Weymouth, Katherine Koutu, Matt Wells and Kristen Fortier recently, focusing on increasing suboxone providers. SAMHS is currently recording the number of people calling the Information & Resource Center, who are asking for suboxone referrals. Ann Dorney suggested the group should talk about encouraging providers to be trained or set up mentoring programs for prospective providers. Peter stated that only a small portion of suboxone clients now have MaineCare coverage. Geoff mentioned a couple of sources for more information about this service and related needs, including the Healthy Maine Partnerships and MASAP.

- 6) **Workforce Development Contract** – Geoff referenced his monthly Workforce Development Calls with contractor AdCare and subcontractors around status of this work area. It was noted that the first community forum, to gather information about workforce development needs, is coming up soon. This forum will focus on MAT, on September 9th, from 9:00 – 12:00. More information about this will be available soon.
- 7) **SAMHS Vacancies** – Geoff stated there are 14 vacancies across SAMHS’ program initiatives, of which 12 are mission critical. Geoff mentioned the Governor is currently approving all new hires across state.
- 8) **MaineCare funding for Methadone** – Money remains in the budget for this service. SAMHS will continue the use of best practices;

Conclusions or Actions and Responsible Lead Person; timeline if applicable:

Peter McCorison will contact Kate Chichester regarding the conflict of SASC meeting and the September 9th forum date.

BREAK: 10 minutes

- **MAT Needs** - discussed under SAMHS Update, #5 by Geoff Miller, Associate Director, Prevention & Intervention
- **Raya Kouletsis, Coordinator, MAPSA – Legislative Updates** - Raya distributed the MAPSA Bill Summary handouts to Commission members and gave an update on legislative bills she has been tracking for this session. Raya will e-mail this original handout to Deborah and she will then send out an electronic copy to all Commission members. Raya reviewed all the bills with the members.

Conclusions or Actions and Responsible Lead Person; timeline if applicable:

Raya will send an electronic copy of the MAPSA Bill Summary to Deb and she will forward to all members.

- **Irene Laney, AA International Convention** – Irene presented a brief overview of her trip to the AA International Convention in Atlanta, which is held once every five years. She stated that it was quite inspiring; 100 thousand people attended; there were three big meetings a day; 65 thousand people attended those meetings; it had wonderful speakers, which took care to include diversity; there were specific meetings for people 50 years and older.
- **Scott Gagnon – Upcoming events:**
 Sept. 18th, VA Mental Health – Togus VA
 Statewide Marijuana Summit Sept. 23, in Bangor; will have National Speakers
 University of Maine at Farmington, Sept. 24th, Bringing Worlds Together – Veteran issues

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Update on Commission Membership List: Same as last meeting**

Peter McCorison connected with Tyler Lamensky; three people have submitted applications – Brion Gallager, Matthew Braun for #17 post-secondary position; Ann Dorney for the #7 physician position;

Other open positions include:

Attorney

Education Practitioner, First and Secondary, 3 seats available

Conclusions or Actions and Responsible Lead Person:

Peter McCorison will continue to be in contact with Tyler Lamensky regarding adding the new members to the Commission.

- **Prepare Agenda Items for meeting on September 9, 2015**

Agenda wasn't developed at this meeting

Next Meeting Location:

DHHS Building, 41 Anthony Avenue, Augusta, Me.

Conference Room C

Wednesday, September 9, 2015

9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

Meeting Adjourned: 11:00